BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5995 JULY 14, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 28

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS----------.

NARR:

THE SOVIET UNION THIS WEEK HELD THE TRIAL OF TWO OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST KNOWN DISSIDENTS, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND ALEXANDR GINZBURG, AMIDST WORLDWIDE PROTESTS AND INDIGNATION. THE INDICTMENT CHARGES SHCHARANSKY WITH HAVING USED HIS HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES TO COVER UP ESPIONAGE AIMED AT DAMAGING THE INDEPENDENCE AND MILITARY POWER OF THE SOVIET UNION. HE IS ALSO ACCUSED OF GIVING SECRET INFORMATION TO AN AGENT OF THE C.I.A. AND PASSING MILITARY SECRETS TO A FORMER U.S. CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW, ROBERT TOTH. FACING A POSSIBLE DEATH SENTENCE ON TREASON CHARGES, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY TOLD THE MOSCOW COURT HE REJECTS THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM AND CONSIDERS THEM ABSURD.

MISTER SHCHARANSKY WAS A MEMBER OF THE MOSCOW GROUP WHICH MONITORED SOVIET COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT. THE PROSECUTION HAS ASKED FOR A FIFTEEN-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE.

MEANWHILE, A COURT IN THE SOVIET CITY OF KALUGA SENTENCED ALEXANDR GINZBURG TO EIGHT YEARS OF HARD LABOR AS DEMANDED BY THE STATE PROSECUTOR. MISTER GINZBURG DENIED THE CHARGES OF ANTI-SOVIET AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA, AND HE CHALLENGED THE PROSECUTION' ASSERTION THAT BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS TAKEN FROM HIM WERE ANTI-SOVIET. THE DISSIDENT WAS ALSO A LEADING MEMBER OF THE SOVIET GROUP MINITORING THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.

THE TWO TRIALS PROMPTED SEVERE CRITICISM AROUND THE WORLD. IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT CARTER SAID THE SHCHARANSKY CASE IS AN ATTACK ON EVERY HUMAN BEING IN THE WORLD WHO BELIEVES IN BASIC FREEDOMS AND IS WILLING TO SPEAK OR FIGHT FOR THEM:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER

"I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS TRIAL WILL AROUSE ANYTHING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD EXCEPT CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DEPLORING OF THIS UNWARRANTED ACTION. I DON'T KNOW IT WILL STILL THE DISSIDENT VOICES. BUT THIS IS NOT LIMITED TO A SINGLE PERSON, NOR IS IT A MATTER BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. IT INVOLVES THE WHOLE WORLD."

NARR:

THE PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH EVERY LEGITIMATE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO LET THE SOVIET UNION KNOW OF ITS DISPLEASURE AND ALSO TO WORK FOR MINIMIZING ANY PUNISHMENT METTED OUT TO MISTER SHCHARANSKY. MISTER CARTER INSISTED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BUT BELIEVES IT MUST BE BROAD-BASED AND RECIPROCAL. AND HE SAID THE UNITED STATES IS NOT LETTING ANYTHING INTERFERE WITH ITS EFFORT TO REACH A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS.

(OPT) THERE WERE DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOVIET DISSIDENTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. A 24-HOUR DAILY VIGIL BEGAN IN FRONT OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. MORE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE SCHEDULED IN MIAMI, BOSTON, CHICAGO, SAN FRANCISCO, PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK. AND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY MANY CHURCH LEADERS CALLED ON THEIR CONGREGATIONS TO SEND TELEGRAMS OF PROTEST TO SOVIET LEADERS AND TO PRESIDENT CARTER. (END OPT)

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS ALSO PROTESTED THE TRIALS WITH ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT. SENATOR DANIEL MOYNIHAN CHARGED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION -- BY CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS ON

STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS -- IS GUILTY OF WHAT AMOUNTS TO COMPLICITY IN THE TRIALS. THERE WERE ALSO CALLS FROM CONGRESSMEN FOR STRONGER ADMINISTRATION ACTION, INCLUDING SUSPENSION OF THE SALT TALKS. AMONG THEM IS SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, WHO SAID THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HALT THE SALE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO MOSCOW:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- JACKSON

"WHAT THE SOVIETS WANT IS OUR TECHNOLOGY, OUR INDUSTRIAL KNOW-HOW. THEY NEED THAT HELP. AND OBVIOUSLY THE WAY TO COME BACK AT THEM IS SAYING THAT, WELL AS LONG AS YOU ARE VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LAW, AS THEY ARE IN THE SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG CASES ALONG WITH ALL THE OTHERS, THEN THE SENSIBLE THING TO DO IS SAY WE'RE POSTPONING ANY FURTHER APPROVAL OF SO-CALLED TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFERS."

NARR:

(OPT) THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY -- THE LARGEST IN THE WEST -- ALSO CONDEMNED THE TRIALS BY SAYING THAT "IT IS NOT TOLERABLE THAT PERSONS BE SENTENCED FOR HOLDING OPINION." CRITICIZING THE SOVIET DECISION TO HOLD THE TRIALS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST DAILY, L'UNITA SAYS THE ABSENCE OF NEWS COVERAGE AND THE ELIMINATION OF PUBLIC OPINION FROM A ROLE IN THE PROCEEDINGS, IN ITS WORDS, "DO NOT FURNISH A GUARANTEE OF A PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE." (END OPT)

DESPITE GROWING U.S. CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET UNION'S CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE MET THIS WEEK WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO IN GENEVA TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD. NEVERTHELESS, MISTER VANCE STRONGLY DEPLORED THE TRIALS AND SAID THESE ACTIONS CLEARLY AGGRAVATE THE CLIMATE IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT MISTER VANCE ALSO INSISTED BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE THAT THE SALT TALKS ARE JUST TOO IMPORTANT TO BE POSTPONED OUT OF PROTEST:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- VANCE

"THE IMPERATIVES FOR GOING TO GENEVA RIGHT NOW ARE THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH NEGOTIATIONS THAT, AS I HAVE SAID, AFFECT THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF OUR NATION AND THE SECURITY AND WELL BEING OF THE WORLD IN GENERAL. IT IS A QUESTION WHICH DEALS WITH THE PROSPECT OF MUTUAL ANNIHILATION ON EITHER SIDE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES THAT THIS COULD HAVE NOT ONLY TO THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED BUT TO THE WORLD GENERAL. THEREFORE, WE THINK THE ISSUE MUST BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS AND SHOULD BE ADDRESSED ON A CONTINUING BASIS WITH THE HIGHEST PRIORITY."

NARR:

AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS, SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN USEFUL -- THAT THEY HAD PROVIDED A BASIS FOR A NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES IN THE FUTURE -- BUT NEITHER USED THE WORLD PROGRESS TO DESCRIBE WHAT TOOK PLACE. THEY SAID THEY WILL MEET AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER AND THEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CHANCES FOR AN AGREEMENT THIS YEAR ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY SLIM.

IN ADDITION TO THE EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS, MISTER VANCE AND MISTER GROMYKO ALSO SPENT TIME DISCUSSING THE QUESTION OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS. ACCORDING TO AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN, MISTER VANCE CONVEYED A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE TRIALS OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS.

BUT THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WAS SOMEWHAT BLUNTED BY SOME CONTROVERSIAL COMMENTS BY U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG. IN TWO SEPARATE INTERVIEWS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THE WORLD WAS NOT GOING TO STOP DURING THE SHCHARANSKY TRIAL AND HE ADDED THAT THERE ARE ALSO, IN HIS WORDS, HUNDREDS OF EVEN THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES. LATER A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT SHARE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VIEW. BUT HE ADDED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER CLAIMED TO HAVE A PERFECT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD.

LATER IN THE WEEK, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID THAT AN ERRONEOUS VIEW HAD BEEN PRESENTED OF HIS STATEMENTS ON THE DISSIDENT TRIALS. HE SAID HE IS FULLY IN ACCORD WITH THE STRONG SENTIMENTS CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS ISSUED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE. AND HE ADDED THAT HE HAS NEVER EQUATED THE STATUS OF POLITICAL FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES WITH THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION:

(OPT) TAPE: CUT FOUR -- YOUNG

"I THINK THESE TRIALS ARE VERY IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY FOR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION, BUT MORE ESPECIALLY FOR THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. IT'S MY CONTENTION THAT THE PRESENT TRIALS ARE REALLY REPRESENTING A SOVIET ELITE -- THAT HAVING HAD THE BEST EDUCATION THAT THE SOVIET UNION CAN OFFER, EXPERIENCING SOME OF THE BEST JOBS IN THE SOVIET SYSTEM, MEN LIKE SHCHARANSKY AND ORLOV AND GINZBURG AND OTHERS ARE RAISING THE QUESTION OF CULTURAL, INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL FREEDOM."

NARR: (END OPT)

PRESIDENT CARTER LEFT WASHINGTON THIS WEEK ON A STATE VISIT TO WEST GERMANY, UNDERSCORING ITS IMPORTANCE AS A KEY AMERICAN ALLY AND TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN A SUMMIT CONFERENCE OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. THESE TALKS WILL COVER SUCH MATTERS AS ECONOMIC GROWTH, INFLATION, ENERGY, TRADE, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY MATTERS AND AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

MISTER CARTER IS EXPECTED TO MAKE THE CASE FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC GROWTH BY WEST GERMANY AND JAPAN AND FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRADE BARRIERS. ON THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY, MANY WESTERN INDUSTRIAL NATIONS HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS HEAVY RELIANCE ON IMPORTED OIL. BUT PRESIDENT CARTER IS PREPARED TO POINT OUT THAT U.S. OIL IMPORTS ARE DOWN AND THAT A MAJOR REASON FOR AMERICA'S TRADE DEFICIT IS ITS PURCHASE OF MANUFACTURED GOODS FROM SOME OF ITS TRADING PARTNERS AT THE BONN SUMMIT.

IN THE G CAPITAL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EAST-WEST DETENTE WAS A LEADING TOPIC IN THE TALKS BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT CARTER:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- WEST GERMAN SPOKESMAN

"I THINK THE DISCUSSIONS, THE TALKS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR FOCUSED ON INTERNATIONAL, SO TO SPEAK, MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS, PRIMARILY AN EVALUATION OF DETENTE. PROBABLY THEY ANALYZED THE LAST EVENTS INCLUDING I GUESS THE TRIALS IN MOSCOW. BUT I'M ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THE TWO GENTLEMEN AGREE ON ONE POINT. THA MEANS WE WILL PURSUE THE POLICY OF DETENTE."

NARR:

IN MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK, AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY AND WILLY BRANDT, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, ISSUED A PEACE PLAN CALLING ON PRESIDENT SADAT TO CONTINUE HIS PEACE INITIATIVE. THE SOCIALIST PLAN CALLS FOR REGIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MIDEAST STATES AND FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO SECURE BOUNDARIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.N. RESOLUTIONS. THE PLAN ALSO CALLS FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE IN NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TAKE PART. CHANCELLOR KREISKY SAID THAT IF THE PLAN IS ADOPTED NEXT SEPTEMBER BY THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL -- AN AFFILIATION OF WORLD SOCIALIST PARTIES -- THERE WOULD BE A MORAL OBLIGATION FOR ALL PARTIES TO OBSERVE IT, INCLUDING THE ISRAELI LABOR PARTY.

REACTING TO THE PLAN, PRESIDENT SADAT INSISTED HE IS NOT AGAINST NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AFTER A MIDDLE EAST PEACE TREATY IS SIGNED. MISTER SADAT ADDED THAT EGYPT DOES NOT OPPOSE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL IF IT PRESENTS NEW ELEMENTS TO DISCUSS. BUT HE RULED OUT NEW TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AT THIS POINT, SAYING THAT THE TWO MEN, IN HIS WORDS, DO NOT SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE.

LATER IN THE WEEK, DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN HELD AN UNEXPECTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER GAMASSY IN SALZBURG. THE MEETING MEANS A RESUMPTION OF MILITARY TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT JUST BEFORE THE POLITICAL TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. THE LONDON CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO CONCENTRATE ON EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI PROPOSALS ON THE FUTURE OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP IN ADDITION TO A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MIDEAST SETTLEMENT. IT WAS DISAGREEMENT OVER THE DECLARATION THAT LED TO THE BREAKDOWN OF EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS.

(OPT) THE LONDON TALKS ARE BEING SPONSORED BY THE UNITED STATES. AND THIS WEEK SECRETARY VANCE SAID THE MEETING WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT, BUT HE BELIEVES THERE IS A CHANCE FOR PROGRESS:

TAPE: CUT SIX -- VANCE

"THE ONLY WAY THIS CAN BE DONE IS TO GET THE PARTIES FACE TO FACE IN DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH EACH OTHER SO THEY CAN PROBE EACH OTHER, SO THEY CAN ASK EACH OTHER WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, WHAT LIES BEHIND THIS QUESTION, WHAT FOLLOWS FROM THIS, I THINK THAT OUT OF THAT KIND OF A DIALOGUE, THERE IS A HOPE FOR SOME PROGRESS."

NARR: (END OPT)

IN DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THIS WEEK, THE NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE GROUP, SWAPO, HAS AGREED TO PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY FIVE WESTERN NATIONS AIMED AT BRINGING INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA, NOW UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION. THE WESTERN PLAN CALLS FOR THE PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS FROM THE TERRITORY, CREATION OF A U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO MAINTAIN SECURITY DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD, AND FREE ELECTIONS UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION.

SOUTH AFRICA AGREED TO THE PLAN IN APRIL, BUT AT THE TIME, SWAPO EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS. ONE OF THE TWO MAJOR

OBSTACLES APPEARS TO BE THE NUMBER AND DEPLOYMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM COMMENDED THE EFFORTS OF THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE FRONTLINE AFRICAN STATES FOR THEIR WORK IN BRINGING ABOUT A SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION:

TAPE: CUT SEVEN -- WALDHEIM

"I HAVE ALREADY MADE THE NECESSARY CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR A UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE. THEY CALL FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AND FOR THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS LEADING TO INDEPENDENCE. THESE PLANS CAN BE PUT INTO EFFECT AS SOON AS THE SECURITY COUNCIL GIVES ITS APPROVAL.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ---------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ------- WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

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JS/RCS/RD